

## **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a stent body expandable between an un-deployed orientation and a deployed orientation, the stent body having a longitudinal axis extending between first and second open ends;

the stent body having a plurality of adjacent circumferential support structures, the circumferential support structures being spaced-apart along the longitudinal axis;

each support structure including longitudinal struts and apex portions, the apex portions forming junctions between adjacent longitudinal struts of each of the support structures, the longitudinal struts and apex portions of each support structure together defining an undulating pattern; and

wherein each circumferential support structure is directly connected to an adjacent circumferential support structure at a plurality but not all apex portions, and wherein some of the circumferential support structures are interconnected to an adjacent circumferential support structure thus forming interconnected pairs of circumferential support structures, said interconnections being formed by a plurality of circumferential connecting struts interconnecting a plurality, but not all of the adjacent circumferentially disposed support structures, the circumferential connecting struts extending between a plurality but not all of the apex portions of the interconnected pairs of circumferential support structures, wherein said interconnected apex portions are circumferentially offset relative to one another.

2. (Currently Amended) The stent of claim 1, wherein in the deployed orientation, adjacent circumferential support structures that are interconnected by circumferential

connecting struts are offset such that the apex portions on one side of a support structure are positioned intermediate the apex portions on a facing side of an adjacent support structure.

3-8 (Withdrawn)

9. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the circumferential connecting struts joining first and second adjacent support structures extend in a first direction and the circumferential connecting struts joining second and third support structures extend in a second direction opposite the first direction.

10. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein some of the longitudinal struts are longer than other longitudinal struts, and wherein the longer longitudinal struts provide a longitudinal overlap at the apex portions.

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the undulating pattern defines a wavelength, and wherein the circumferential connecting members are at least one half the length of the wavelength.

13-16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a stent body expandable between an un-deployed orientation and a deployed orientation, the stent body having a longitudinal axis extending between first and

second open ends;

the stent body having a plurality of adjacent circumferential support structures, the circumferential support structures being spaced- apart along the longitudinal axis;

each support structure including longitudinal struts interconnected at apex portions, the longitudinal struts and apex portions defining an undulating pattern; and

wherein each circumferential support structure is directly connected to an adjacent circumferential support structure at a plurality but not all apex portions, and wherein some of the circumferential support structures are interconnected to an adjacent circumferential support structure thus forming interconnected pairs of circumferential support structures, said interconnections being formed by a plurality of circumferential connecting struts interconnecting only some of the adjacent circumferential support structures, the circumferential connecting struts extending between the apex portions of paired adjacent circumferential support structures, wherein when the stent body is generally straight, some pairs of adjacent circumferential support structures have adjacent apex portions that oppose one another, and other pairs of adjacent support structures have adjacent apex portions that are circumferentially offset so as to not oppose one another, the circumferential offset being provided by the circumferential connecting struts.

20. (Original) The stent of claim 19, wherein only alternating pairs of circumferential support structures are interconnected by the circumferential support structures.

21. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the circumferential connecting struts are perpendicular to the longitudinal struts.